power generation, transmission and distribution in SEZs have been issued in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India including Department of Revenue. The fiscal benefits admissible to captive power plants set up in the SEZ are same as those applicable to other SEZ developers/units in SEZs.

Difficulties in acquiring land for SEZs

1952. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) developers have been finding it difficult to acquire land for SEZs;

(b) if yes, has Government formulated any guidelines for intervening in such cases; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Land is a State subject. Land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. The Board of Approval on SEZs only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government. Further, pursuant to the decision of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) in its meeting held on 5th April, 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.

Commercial relations with neighbouring countries

1953. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to improve better commercial relations with neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of import and export to the neighbouring countries during the last three years, value-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve commercial